

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which allowance is requested. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers for a manufacturing order, said method comprising the steps of:

facilitating user selection of a customized manufacturing order for a product to be manufactured, after placement of said customized manufacturing order, by a particular local manufacturer selected by said user from among a plurality of local manufacturers, wherein said plurality of local manufacturers locally distribute manufactured products to said user without shipping said manufactured products;

dividing ~~[[a]]~~ said customized manufacturing order for ~~[[a]]~~ said user into a plurality of manufacturable parts; ~~[[and]]~~

submitting a local bid request for said manufacturing order to ~~[[a]]~~ said plurality of local manufacturers;

receiving at least one local bid for said manufacturing order from at least one of said plurality of local manufacturers, wherein said at least one local bid specifies a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts required for producing said customized order; and

~~in response to receiving a plurality of local bids for said manufacturing order,~~ submitting a remote bid request to a plurality of remote manufacturers for ~~[[a]]~~ said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts as requested in said at least one ~~plurality of~~ local bids.

2. (Original) The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

submitting said local bid request and said remote bid request from a broker server communicatively connected through a network to a plurality of manufacturer systems.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim [[3]] 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

in response to receiving a design request from a user, transmitting a plurality of available products to said user;

in response to receiving a product selection from among said plurality of available products, transmitting a plurality of available attributes to said user;

in response to receiving an attribute selection from among said plurality of available attributes, transmitting a plurality of available variables to said user; and

in response to a receiving a variable selection from among said plurality of available variables, rendering a graphical representation of said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized-product~~ according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 4, said method further comprising the step of:

calculating a cost estimate for said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized-product~~ according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim [[3]] 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

analyzing said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized-design~~ for integrity; and

in response to finding integrity flaws in said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized-design~~, providing said user with suggestions for adjusting said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized-design~~.

7. (Original) The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

compiling said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids into a plurality of selectable bid options for said user.

8. (Original) The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 1, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving a selection from said user from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids;

transferring an order request for said manufacturing order according to said selection from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids.

9. (Original) The method for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 8, said method further comprising the step of:

completing a financial settlement from said user for said order request.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers for a manufacturing order, said system comprising:

a server system communicatively connected via a network to a plurality of local manufacturers and a plurality of remote manufacturers;

said server system further comprising:

means for facilitating user selection of a customized manufacturing order for a product to be manufactured, after placement of said customized manufacturing order, by a particular local manufacturer selected by said user from among said plurality of local manufacturers, wherein said plurality of local manufacturers locally distribute manufactured products to said user without shipping said manufactured products;

means for dividing [[a]] said customized manufacturing order for [[a]] said user into a plurality of manufacturable parts; [[and]]

means for submitting a local bid request from said server system for said manufacturing order to [[a]] said plurality of local manufacturers; and

means for receiving at least one local bid for said manufacturing order from at least one of said plurality of local manufacturers, wherein said at least one local bid specifies a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts required for producing said customized order;

means for submitting a remote bid request from said server system to a plurality of remote manufacturers for [[a]] said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts as requested in said at least one ~~plurality of~~ local bids, in response to receiving a plurality of local bids for said manufacturing order at said server system.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim [[11]] 10, said system further comprising:

means for transmitting a plurality of available products to said user from said server system, in response to receiving a design request from a user;

means for transmitting a plurality of available attributes to said user from said server system, in response to receiving a product selection from among said plurality of available products;

means for transmitting a plurality of available variables to said user from said server system, in response to receiving an attribute selection from among said plurality of available attributes; and

means for rendering a graphical representation of said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized product~~ according to said product selection from said server system, said attribute selection and said variable selection, in response to a receiving a variable selection from among said plurality of available variables.

13. (Currently Amended) The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 12, said system further comprising:

means for calculating a cost estimate for said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized product~~ according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection.

14. (Currently Amended) The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim [[11]] 10, said system further comprising:

means for analyzing said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized design~~ for integrity; and

means for providing said user with suggestions for adjusting said customized manufacturing order ~~personalized design~~, in response to finding integrity flaws in said personalized design.

15. (Original) The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 10, said system further comprising:

means for compiling said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids into a plurality of selectable bid options for said user.

16. (Original) The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 10, said system further comprising:

means for receiving a selection from said user from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids at said server system;

means for transferring an order request from said server system for said manufacturing order according to said selection from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids.

17. (Original) The system for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 16, said system further comprising:

means for completing a financial settlement from said user for said order request.

18. (Currently Amended) A program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers for a manufacturing order, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for facilitating user selection of a customized manufacturing order for a product to be manufactured, after placement of said customized manufacturing order, by a particular local manufacturer selected by said user from among a plurality of local manufacturers, wherein said plurality of local manufacturers locally distribute manufactured products to said user without shipping said manufactured products;

means for dividing [[a]] said customized manufacturing order for [[a]] said user into a plurality of manufacturable parts; [[and]]

means for transmitting a local bid request for said manufacturing order to [[a]] said plurality of local manufacturers;

means for receiving at least one local bid for said manufacturing order from at least one of said plurality of local manufacturers, wherein said at least one local bid specifies a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts required for producing said customized order; and

means for transmitting a remote bid request to a plurality of remote manufacturers for [[a]] said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts as requested in said at least one plurality of local bids, in response to receiving a plurality of local bids for said manufacturing order.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim [[19]] 18, said program further comprising:

means for transmitting a plurality of available products to said user, in response to receiving a design request from a user;

means for transmitting a plurality of available attributes to said user, in response to receiving a product selection from among said plurality of available products;

means for transmitting a plurality of available variables to said user, in response to receiving an attribute selection from among said plurality of available attributes; and

means for generating a graphical representation of said customized manufacturing order personalized product according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection, in response to a receiving a variable selection from among said plurality of available variables.

21. (Currently Amended) The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 20, said program further comprising:

means for calculating a cost estimate for said customized manufacturing order personalized product according to said product selection, said attribute selection and said variable selection.

22. (Currently Amended) The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim [[19]] 18, said program further comprising:

means for analyzing said customized manufacturing order personalized design for integrity; and

means for notifying said user with suggestions for adjusting said customized manufacturing order personalized design, in response to finding integrity flaws in said personalized design.

23. (Original) The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 18, said program further comprising:

means for compiling said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids into a plurality of selectable bid options for said user.

24. (Original) The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 18, said program further comprising:

means for receiving a selection from said user from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids;

means for transmitting an order request for said manufacturing order according to said selection from among said plurality of local bids and said plurality of remote bids.

25. (Original) The program for coordinating a plurality of local and remote manufacturers according to claim 24, said program further comprising:

means for completing a financial settlement from said user for said order request.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for customizing bids for a personalized product, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a bid request for a personalized product at a local manufacturer, wherein said bid request comprises a plurality of manufacturable parts, wherein said local manufacturer locally distributes manufactured products without shipping said manufactured products; and

returning a bid offer for said personalized product specifying a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts required to be provided by a remote manufacturer for said local manufacturer to manufacture said personalized product, such that said local manufacturer customizes said bid offer for said personalized product.

27. (Original) The method for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 26, said step of receiving a bid request for a personalized product further comprising the step of:

receiving said bid request at a local manufacturer system communicatively connected to a network with a broker server comprising means for receiving requests from users.

28. (Original) The method for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 26, said step of returning a bid offer further comprising the step of:

requiring an option to select from among a plurality of bids for said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts from a plurality of remote manufacturers.

29. (Currently Amended) A system for customizing bids for a personalized product, said system comprising:

a manufacturer server system communicatively connected via a network to a broker server system enabled to receive a bid request from a user;

said manufacturer server system comprising:

means for receiving said bid request for a personalized product at a local manufacturer, wherein said bid request comprises a plurality of manufacturable parts, wherein said local manufacturer locally distributes manufactured products without shipping said manufactured products; and

means for returning a bid offer for said personalized product specifying a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts required to be provided by a remote manufacturer for said local manufacturer to manufacture said personalized product, such that said local manufacturer customizes said bid offer for said personalized product.

30. (Original) The system for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 29, said means for receiving a bid request for a personalized product further comprising:

means for receiving said bid request at a local manufacturer system communicatively connected to a network with said broker server system.

31. (Original) The system for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 29, said means for returning a bid offer further comprising:

means for requiring an option to select from among a plurality of bids for said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts from a plurality of remote manufacturers.

32. (Currently Amended) A program for customizing bids for a personalized product, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for receiving a bid request for a personalized product at a local manufacturer, wherein said bid request comprises a plurality of manufacturable parts, wherein said local manufacturer locally distributes manufactured products without shipping said manufactured products; and

means for returning a bid offer for said personalized product specifying a selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts required to be provided by a remote manufacturer for said local manufacturer to manufacture said personalized product, such that said local manufacturer customizes said bid offer for said personalized product.

33. (Original) The program for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 32, said program further comprising:

means for receiving said bid request at a local manufacturer system communicatively connected to a network with a broker server.

34. (Original) The program for customizing bids for a personalized product according to claim 32, said program further comprising:

means for requiring an option to select from among a plurality of bids for said selection of said plurality of manufacturable parts from a plurality of remote manufacturers.

35. (Canceled).